A HISTORY
OF IRAQ

CHARLES TRIPP
Contents

List of illustrations x
Chronology xii
Glossary xx
List of abbreviations xxii
Map 1 Iraq: principal towns xxiv
Map 2 Basra, Kuwait and the Shatt al-'Arab xxv
Map 3 Iraq and the Middle East xxvi
Map 4 Kurdish Iraq xxvii

Introduction 1

1 The Ottoman provinces of Baghdad, Basra and Mosul 8
   Power in the three provinces 8
   The Ottoman 'reconquest' of the three provinces 13
   Sultan Abdulhamid II and the Young Turks 19
   The Committee of Union and Progress and its opponents 23

2 The British Mandate 30
   British occupation and reactions 31
   The Iraqi revolt of 1920 39
   The institutional definition of the state 44
   Mandate and treaty 51
   The Mosul question: territory and oil 57
   Different communities, different purposes, different histories 59
   Emerging trends in politics and the economy 63

3 The Hashemite monarchy 1932–41 75
   Communal identities and tribal unrest 77
   Social criticism and political conspiracy 82
   The coup d'état of 1936 86
   Military politics: pan-Arabism and army conspiracies 91
Contents

4 The Hashemite monarchy 1941–58
Re-establishing the regime
Thwarted liberalisation
Foreign policies: Arab issues, Palestine and the Portsmouth Treaty
Economic development and party politics
Nuri al-Sa‘id: the politics of reform and repression
Nuri al-Sa‘id: foreign initiatives and domestic challenges
The coup d’etat of 1958

5 The republic 1958–68
‘Abd al-Karim Qasim: dictatorship and disillusion
Iraqi foreign policy under Qasim
The politics of conspiracy and the coup d’etat of February 1963
Ba’thist control and loss of control in 1963
‘Abd al-Salam ‘Arif: Nasserist aspirations and Iraqi realities
Patrimonialism and the rule of the clan
‘Abd al-Rahman ‘Arif: a weakening hold on power

6 The Ba’th and the rule of Saddam Husain 1968–2003
Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and the consolidation of power
Kurdish and Shi’i challenges and relations with Iran
Economic patronage, political control and foreign policy alignments
War in Kurdistan
Oil revenues, foreign policies and the rise of Saddam Husain
Saddam Husain’s presidency and the war with Iran in 1980
Defending the regime and Iraq after 1982
A war of attrition 1984–8
Resistance amongst the Kurds and the Shi’a
The aftermath of war and the invasion of Kuwait 1988–90
The war for Kuwait and the uprisings of 1991
Iraq under sanctions and the long aftermath of the Gulf war
Kurdish autonomy and Kurdish politics
The ‘shadow state’ in Iraq
War and the fall of Saddam Husain

7 The American occupation and the parliamentary republic
The rule of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA)
New institutions and old politics
Insurgency, sectarianism and the spectre of civil war

Conclusion
Notes
Bibliography
Further reading and research
Index
A History of Iraq  THIRD EDITION

To understand Iraq, Charles Tripp’s history is the book to read. Since its first appearance in 2000, it has become a classic in the field of Middle East studies, read and admired by students, soldiers, policymakers and journalists. The book is now updated to include the recent American invasion, the fall and capture of Saddam Husain and the subsequent descent into civil strife. What is clear is that much that has happened since 2003 was foreshadowed in the account found in this book. Tripp’s thesis is that the history of Iraq throughout the twentieth century has made it what it is today, but also provides alternative futures. Unless this is properly understood, many of the themes explored in this book—patron–client relations, organised violence, sectarian, ethnic and tribal difference—will continue to exert a hold over the future of Iraq as they did over its past.

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‘Tripp offers a very readable account that presents the many different political figures, the ebb and flow of central government relations with Kurds and Shi’ites, and the ongoing regional and international coverage.’
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHARLES TRIPP is Professor of Politics in the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. His publications include Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism (2006), Iran–Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Order (with S. Chubin, 1996) and Iran and Iraq at War (1988).

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Iraqi and religious flags fly over graves in Najaf, November 2006, following the deaths of over 200 people in bomb attacks in Sadr City in Baghdad. (Photo by Wathiq Khuzaie / Getty Images.)